Thank You, Parish Family!

There are no words to fully express my gratitude for the support you’ve given Joe, Abe, and me as we made our transition to become a family of three. Thank you for your incredibly generous gifts at our baby showers this past summer. Your financial contributions paid for our entire nursery, and we even had some left over to start Baby Abe’s college fund. Wow! Your enthusiasm for baby books has provided us with the largest personal library of baby & kids’ books that I could imagine. This will be one well-read baby.

Most of all, thank you for the love and friendship that you’ve given us. I couldn’t imagine a more supportive community for us as Joe and I enter parenthood. We can’t wait for everyone to meet Abe!

— The Rev. Jessie Dodson, Assistant Rector

Winter Fellowship Event: Chili Cook-Off!

Are you feeling chili?
The St. Paul’s Parish Fellowship Committee (PFC) invites you to join us for a warm and SPiCy winter evening at the first annual SPC Fellowship Chili Cook-off on Friday, January 24, at 6:30 p.m. Contestants, bring your crockpot of chili to share with the judges and other parishioners. Tickets are only $10 per person; attendance is complimentary for chili donors. PFC will provide the chili toppings, cornbread and beverages, including a variety of non-alcoholic drinks and beer and wine. Dessert and salad donations are welcome.

Tickets can be purchased in Tucker Hall on Sundays, January 5, 12 and 19 or online through the St. Paul’s website, www.stpauls-church.org. This is an “adults only” event but childcare (including “movie night” for older children) will be provided by the Youth Group for a donation toward their summer pilgrimage fund. Please sign up for childcare at the PFC table in Tucker Hall or contact Pam O’Halloran.

Cumin and enjoy! Winners will be awarded the Wooden Spoon prize! For questions, please contact Pam O’Halloran, pohalloran@stpauls-church.org, or (216) 932-5815.

Celebrate Epiphany at St. Paul’s

Epiphany is one of the most joyous feast days in the church year, and we’re looking forward to observing it together! St. Paul’s will observe the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday, January 5, with an all-parish celebration from 10 to 11 a.m. in Tucker Hall.

As we follow the star with the Magi, we’ll celebrate God made manifest in human form and the light of Christ breaking into the world. With King Cake and festive activities for all ages and all generations — come unwind and enjoy the light!
Clergy Reflection

A (re)View from the “Inside”

It was suggested that I write a reflection on my time at St. Paul’s Parish. I am so very glad to comply with that request. What have I learned after sharing ministry with the leadership and laity of St. Paul’s Church, Cleveland Heights for the past four months? I have experienced much and therefore, learned much. For example, I have experienced my colleagues here, led by Jeanne Leinbach, as dedicated and truly one of the most collegial groups of people I have ever worked with. Although you have only known me for a brief period of time, trust me when I say, this doesn’t always happen. The members of St. Paul’s staff are willing to risk being real with one another. They are supportive and willing to ask challenging questions, and to listen, hear and respect the opinions and thoughts of each other even if one might disagree with what is being said. This models what it means to Grow a Loving Community and I am grateful for it. Thanks be.

It has been my joy to be on “the rota” of those who serve as Celebrant at the Sunday Eucharists, Wednesday Eucharists, and the monthly Judson Eucharist; to serve as Officiant at Morning Prayer, Preacher, and Healing Minister, and Pastoral Care Visitor. Even though I’m a “newbie” myself, I have endeavored to be present to newcomers and visitors and to help them get connected to the St. Paul’s parish community. But I would like to highlight one other task I have been happy to accomplish during the past four months, which may seem small, but symbolizes again what Growing a Loving Community is all about.

One of the tasks that I gladly accepted during my time at St. Paul’s involves working with the flower ministry. On Sundays when flowers adorn the altar in our sanctuary, members of the Altar Guild create five or six bouquets to be sent out among the congregation. If there is someone celebrating a significant birthday or anniversary, or whose life has been challenged by the sickness of body, mind, soul, or heart, we send flowers with a note to convey our greetings and our prayers. In the brief time I have been writing notes to travel with the bouquets, I have received a dozen hand written responses thanking the leadership and members of the parish for these expressions of care and concern. Taking flowers to parish members on Sundays after the 11:15 a.m. service is a rich and rewarding ministry. Jeanne and I have joined this small but dedicated brigade in transporting our floral symbols of affection and affirmation. And I will take this opportunity to say: WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER FLOWERS! It is an extra hour well spent in the ministry of reaching out with compassion and, believe me when I say, it makes a difference in the lives of those who receive the flowers, and it will make a difference in your life as a volunteer. Please speak with any of the clergy if you are being called to join this ministry team.

I have greatly enjoyed serving as the Interim Assistant Rector during Jessie Dodson’s maternity leave. My husband, Yorki Encalada, and I have been warmly welcomed by the staff and members of this parish family. It has been a wonderful opportunity for which we can only offer our affection and thanks to God and to you.

— The Rev. Dr. Brian K. Wilbert
Interim Assistant Rector

A-CAROLING WE DID GO! This is just a fraction of the 30+ youth, young adults, and volunteers who caroled for more than 20 parishioners and had a Christmas Party at the official St. Paul’s Youth Ministry Outpost (Leah’s house). Many thanks to everyone who helped spread Christmas cheer within and without! (Photo: Leah Romanelli)
Awkwardness When the Plate Passes By

There's an old stewardship joke that goes something like this: As a family was driving home from church one Sunday, the husband said, “I was disappointed in the sermon today. It really didn’t do anything for me.” The wife responded, “I thought the communion bread was a bit stale!”

“And the treats were a bit skimpy at coffee hour” added the husband. “The bulletin had so many typos,” the wife sighed. Then from the back seat, their son said, “I don’t understand why you’re both complaining. That seemed like a pretty good deal for a dollar.”

While not a particularly good joke, it does raise an important question about how we model generosity and stewardship—and not only when our children are sitting next to us in the pews. In Matthew, Jesus says that when giving alms, one should not let the left hand know what the right hand does, but perhaps that speaks more to boastful or hypocritical giving than to simply modeling Christian charity and responsibility.

Recognizing that all that we have is a gift from God, demonstrating our obligation to be generous to those in need, and sharing that with which God has blessed us—are these not the lessons we would like to be imparting to our children, parish newcomers, and younger parishioners? Modeling is the most effective way to teach about the personal responsibility to live one’s faith, to support the institutions that serve as God’s hands in the world.

Automatic debits and electronic giving have created a particular challenge for active modeling of generosity on Sunday mornings. We enjoy the ease of giving online or sending a year-end gift, yet feel uncomfortable as the plate goes by and we put nothing in it. The passing of the plate feels like it should be a group activity. By participating, we visibly demonstrate to our children, our neighbors, our visitors that this is our church and we support its ministries.

So here are a few suggestions for those who give online or in other ways. 1. **Put something in the plate on Sunday morning.** Using the envelopes if you prefer, put in a dollar or two to symbolize your active support of the church. 2. **Discuss with your children (or your spouse or your friends) what your pledge to the church symbolizes (giving of “first fruits” rather than leftovers).** 3. **Be intentional about your giving; as the plate passes by, remember that our gifts are about our relationship with God, not about what we receive in return.**

Notice of Vestry Nominations

The following slate has been presented for election to the Vestry at the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 26:

Carl Carter, Jennie Kaffen, Liz Patterson, Chris Smythe; to fill a one-year unexpired term: Mark Souther.

Our thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee for their prayerful consideration of the task they were given: Jamie Hogg, chair; Jackie Acho, Dave Fulton, Ginger Ratcliffe and Katie Wheaton.

According to the parish by-laws, the Nominating Committee sets forth a slate containing the names of as many candidates as are needed to fill the open Vestry positions. The by-laws further provide that: other nominations for such vacancies may be made by fifteen qualified voters of the Parish. Any such nominations shall be submitted in writing, signed by the nominators, and shall be delivered to the Rector not later than twelve days prior to the annual meeting. Thereupon, the nominations shall be deemed closed. [Article IV, Section 5]

The Annual Parish Meeting will be **Sunday, January 26.** Accordingly, **Tuesday, January 14,** is the deadline for any additional nominations meeting the qualifications above.

SPEAKING OF PASSING THE PLATE...
We Need More Ushers!

Being an usher is a great way to meet people and support worship services at St. Paul’s. Ushers have five main responsibilities: welcome and help parishioners; hand out bulletins; collect offering; guide people receiving communion; tidy the pews following services. Ushers serve once a month. We need a few more ushers for 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., and 11:15 a.m. services. It is a wonderful ministry for everyone of all ages—including families. If you’re interested in finding out more about ushering, please contact Susan Vodrey, svodrey@aol.com.
10 A.M. SUNDAY ADULT FORMATION

January 5: All-Parish Epiphany Celebration in Tucker Hall. (See page 1.)

January 12: God and Love on Route 80: The Hidden Mystery of Human Connectedness led by Dr. Stephen Post, based on his most recent book of the same name. Everyone has heard of “God winks” and “God whispers,” those uncanny moments when as if in answer to a prayer we encounter the perfect person to help us along our journeys. A number of these episodes occurred in Cleveland when Post was a professor as Case School of Medicine and an active member of St. Paul’s. He will explain how these episodes shaped the journey of his life, beginning with a promotional dream at the age of 15 while a student at St. Paul’s School in New Hampshire, to filling the entire UN Headquarters in 2016 with youth from around the world. This is chance for you to engage in conversations about your experiences of synchronicity, and to speak of how they point to what theologians refer to nowadays as “non-local Mind” and the mystery of human connectedness that tells us all, if we care to notice, that we are each infinitely cherished by a loving God.

January 19: No Adult Forum. Please join us in Tucker Hall for Coffee Hour!

January 26: The Annual Meeting of the Parish — Combined worship at 10 a.m. with the Annual Meeting of the parish following. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. (See page 3.)

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

St. Paul’s Adult Formation Committee is busy planning a new opportunity for this coming season of Lent. The theme for this program year is Sharing Our Stories. Building off this, we’ll be putting together small groups of 8-10 parishioners, who will meet weekly throughout Lent, coming together to share parts of their faith journeys. There will be story prompts and a moderator for each group. Look for opportunities to sign up beginning soon! Contact Laurie Scriven, lalib@att.net, with questions.

Spirituality on the Silver Screen

St. Paul’s popular movie series Spirituality on the Silver Screen returns on seven Wednesdays in Epiphany. Parishioners host screenings of movies that have particular spiritual significance to them, and lead short discussions afterwards. All “reel spirituality” screenings begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room. Free admission and free popcorn, courtesy of the Adult Formation Committee!

Come enjoy a movie screening with friends on these Wednesdays this winter:

January 8: Agora (2009) — A historical drama set in Roman Egypt, concerning a slave who turns to the rising tide of Christianity in the hope of pursuing freedom while falling in love with his mistress, the philosophy and mathematics professor Hypatia of Alexandria. Hosted by Tim Wutrich.


January 22: The Lives of Others (2006) — A drama set in East Germany in 1984, this film begins when Gerd Wiesler, an officer with the East German secret police, attends a play written by Georg Dreyman, who is considered by many to be the ultimate example of the loyal citizen. Wiesler has a gut feeling that Dreyman can’t be as ideal as he seems, and believes surveillance is needed. The more time Wiesler spends listening in, the more he comes to care about his subjects. Hosted by Liz Richmond.

January 29: Ex Machina (2014) — A sci-fi film in which a young programmer is selected to participate in a groundbreaking experiment in synthetic intelligence by evaluating the human qualities of a highly advanced humanoid A.I. Hosted by William Vodrey.

February 5: Tom Brown hosts One More Time with Feeling

February 12: Kyra Nay hosts Ostrov (The Island)

February 19: Chris Chance hosts The Martian

These groups meet on a regular basis from September through May.

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Lectionary Bible Study
Tuesdays, 9:15 a.m.
Coventry Dining Room
cschance25@gmail.com

Contemplative Prayer
Fridays, 9:30 a.m.
Chapel of the Cross
chuck.herbruck@gmail.com

Eliza Backus Guild
Second Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.
Brooks Room
nanhsher@yahoo.com

Knitting Circle
First Tuesday, 1 to 3 p.m.
Third Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m.
Coventry Parlor
terrileemp@gmail.com
St. Paul’s 101 Returns for Newcomers
We’ll start the new year with a series of interactive Newcomer Lunches, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Sundays, January 5, 12, 19 and February 2. These lunches are specifically designed for those who are new to St. Paul’s, and those who want to learn more about the ministries and operations of St. Paul’s. But all are welcome! Each week, we will focus on a different aspect of our church. Lunch will be provided. Contact Jessie Dodson, j dodson@st pauls church.org, with questions.

January 5 — Facilities & Music: We’ll begin in the O’Hear Room; then we’ll hear the organ up-close and take a tour of our beautiful building.

January 12 — Christian Education (Children, Youth, Adult): We’ll begin in the O’Hear Room. We will experience a Godly Play lesson (Children’s Ministry) and Youth Group class with our Christian education team.

January 19 — Outreach: We’ll begin in the Dining Room on the lower level, where we will make a meal for our monthly feeding ministry, Loaves & Fishes.

February 2 — Communication, Administration, and Finance: We’ll begin in the Brooks Room, where we will learn about the operations of the church and discover ways you can stay connected with St. Paul’s digitally and beyond.

Music @ St. Paul’s
Annual Messiaen Recital — On Sunday, January 19, at 4 p.m., Organist/Choirmaster Karel Paukert will offer his annual performance of Olivier Messiaen’s La Nativité du Seigneur. Please come and share in this joyful music with us!

In the Air: A Musical Journal for Four Hands — Take a trip to Europe in the middle of the winter without leaving Tucker Hall! All are invited on Sunday, January 26, at 5 p.m., when Jiri Trtik, a young composer from Prague who recently completed his studies at The Cleveland Institute of Music, and his colleague Ukrainian-Russian pianist, Nikolay Pushkarev, student of Sergei Babayan, unveil Trtik’s new opus for piano for four hands.

Trtik travelled last summer in Europe and kept a diary that he subsequently translated into a musical journey, vividly depicting in tones his visits to famous sites, but also of picturesque places, less-well known. A freewill offering will be gathered to support these young musicians.

ELIZA BACKUS GUILD
What is Heights Arts?
St. Paul’s parishioner Greg Donley will tell us about Heights Arts and their work with literary, musical and visual artists at the monthly Eliza Backus Guild meeting on Tuesday, January 14, at 7:15 p.m. Please come at 7 p.m. for coffee and cookies; then we’ll hear Greg’s presentation. Everyone is invited to come to this interesting program!

Young Adults & Sages Gather Together!
St. Paul’s Young Adults cordially invite the Sages fellowship group of active retired adults to the annual Winter Gathering on Friday, January 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. We’ll gather in the Brooks Room, eat warm food, and enjoy some mid-winter cheer. RSVP to Megan Findling at megan.findling@gmail.com or (216) 269-3529 by Friday, January 3. Please include dietary restrictions in your RSVP, if applicable.

In the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
Bellwether Farm is hiring Summer Camp Counselors! Go to www.bellwetherfarm.com/getinvolved to learn how to apply.

Registration is now open for the 2020 Winter Convocation, February 7-8, at Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Sandusky. The Rev. Lorenzo Librjia, founding director of The TryTank Experimental Lab will be the keynote leader. With a children’s program, a youth program, and thirteen best practice workshops, the Winter Convocation offers something for everyone. Check the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio website, www.dohio.org, for a link to registration.
Parish Notes  St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights

YOUTH NEWS

GlobAl MissIons

news from Rift Valley Children’s Village

In Tanzania, where 2 million children aged 7 to 13 are not enrolled in school, an elementary school graduation is an event that changes a student’s future forever. For many of the students at Gyetighi Primary School, they are the first in their family to complete this level of schooling, making the milestone even more historic. On September 27, 2019, St. Paul’s sponsored child, Vicenti Juma, crossed the graduation stage with five of his classmates, taking a big step toward a brighter future.

Vicenti’s favorite subjects are art and science. He says, “The thing I am looking forward to most is being with my siblings at Oldeani Secondary School. I will get to see my brothers and sisters and meet new people every day.”

Christmas Success of “It’s a Cool Life!”

Our CAST Winter One Act, directed by Anna Welsh, was a Christmas miracle! Full of fun, fifties favorites, and Christmas spirit, audiences both nights cheered on our youth and children’s success. When you see our CAST, please take a moment to congratulate them. And remember—it’s whistles that get angels their wings this season—not bells—so blow all the whistles you see! Many, many thanks to Brian Jung and Anne Payne for supervising all the rehearsals and to all the parents who helped build and strike the set, and who fed us repeatedly!

The Sound of Music Coming in March!

St. Paul’s halls will be alive with the Sound of Music starting in January. All youth in grades 4-12 are invited to bring all their friends and audition for this year’s spring musical: The Sound of Music. In order to put on this extensive show, we will need a cast of dozens, so tell everyone you know and spread the word! Our CAST rule is that no one gets cut, so if you audition you will get a role.

Please come Friday, January 10, at 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 11, at 10 a.m.; or Sunday, January 12, at 11 a.m. to sing us your favorite song from the show and try acting out a few of the scenes with us. We are also currently looking for a St. Paul’s high school student who will direct the show and the youth and adults who would like to play in the pit band, be a rehearsal pianist, make costumes, or help design and build sets.

Please let Leah Romanelli or Anne Payne know if you’re interested in helping. Let’s make The Sound of Music an entire St. Paul’s endeavor! Rehearsals will begin January 19 and our show dates are March 6-8. Those who wish to audition may sign up here: shorturl.at/dvFIS. Break a leg, everyone!

OUTREACH

GLOBAL MISSIONS

News from Rift Valley Children’s Village

(continued)

ANoThER SuCCeSSful loaves & FiSheS CHriSTMaS diNNeR

St. Paul’s parishioners cooked hams, turkeys, mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, collard greens and lots of desserts to serve guests at the Annual L&F Christmas Dinner in December. The Rev. Brian Bechtel led a prayer before volunteers served guests at their tables. Carol Wipper played festive carols on the keyboard and every guest took home a gift of warm socks.

Many thanks to Julie Dornbakk and Jennie Kaffen for organizing and to ALL of the volunteers to who worked ahead and behind the scenes, and on the front lines! (Photo: Kim Fry)
Keeping Our Historic Building Ship Shape
2019 has been an expensive year for St. Paul’s facilities and grounds, but many important deferred maintenance and repair needs have been addressed and the property greatly improved as a result. Thanks to responsible budgeting over the past few years, we are enormously fortunate to have a capital reserve fund from which to draw needed maintenance resources.

Front steps: The steps, ramp, sidewalk and handrails at the front of the building were replaced in June. The old concrete was crumbling in spots and rust from the rebar was coming through. The result is a much more attractive and welcoming main entrance to the church building.

Roof replacement: I usually tell people not to look up when they are passing through the rotunda (inside the front entrance) because the ceiling looks so awful from the persistent roof leaks over the past several years. Various attempts to repair the roofs each failed and finally this summer the six roofs of the rotunda area were replaced. The ceiling will be painted in the next month or so and then you have permission to look up again!

Heating systems: My favorite subject! Leaking condensation return pipes, faulty steam traps, malfunctioning thermostats, and many other boiler system woes have taken up much time and financial resources. However, I am happy to report that all boilers, pipes, traps, thermostats, pumps, valves, etc. are repaired and in great working order for the cold winter months. We are able to better control the heat in various spaces, including the Nave and Brooks Room; we are saving significant sums in both our water and gas bills; and there is no longer a problem with condensation in the upper floors of the church.

Trees: As many of you know, the September 13 storm severely damaged or blew down over a dozen large trees. Four of the large damaged trees were subsequently taken down in the following weeks. It was a sad loss but, thankfully, the church building was unscathed.

Tucker windows: All windows in Tucker Hall have now been restored, repaired, repainted and resealed with new arms installed to ensure that they will no longer bang on windy days.

The “west wing”: Over the past year both the ACT II Task Force and the House Committee have been working on plans to renovate the former preschool wing in order to relocate the resale shop into the much larger and more accessible space. An architect and shop designer were engaged, contractors submitted proposals, and in November, the Vestry voted to approve funding for the renovations. The work will begin this month. Please stay tuned for more updates.

— Pam O’Halloran, Director of Operations

New: Family Education and Support Groups Offered at St. Paul’s
The Family Education and Support program is for families experiencing the realities and pain of alcohol or drug addiction. The groups meet back-to-back on two Wednesday evenings a month at St. Paul’s. The groups are free; however, donations are welcome.

The Education Group provides participants with basic information that will assist them in making healthy choices for themselves and those they love. The Education Group meets from 6 to 7:15 p.m.

The Family Support Group is an open-ended group experience designed and conducted primarily for parents, spouses and other family members who are concerned about a loved one’s harmful use of alcohol or other drugs. It is not a 12-step community based self-help support group. The Family Support Group provides a structured, caring environment for individuals seeking support for making healthier choices for themselves and those they love. Participants are free to share their common strength and hope through their past and present experiences, without fear of reprisal, judgment, or negative feedback. The group meets from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.

These programs are coordinated and facilitated by Jim Joyner, Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor Clinical Supervisor with 47 years of experience in the field of alcohol and other drug addiction, treatment, prevention, education and intervention services. If you have any questions, please direct them to Jim at (216) 780-3883 or visit their website at Joynerandassociates.com.

The program moved to St. Paul’s from St. Alban’s and meets every other week starting on January 8.
NEWCOMER PROFILE

Meet Kaneala Nelson
Since he “found” St. Paul’s after a concentrated search to find a spiritual home, Kaneala Nelson has become a familiar figure within our congregation. You will find him participating in the bell choir, Chalice Ministry, ushering, Men’s Council, Men’s Spirituality, and Education for Ministry.

Kaneala was born in Hawaii of Hawaiian and eastern European heritage. As a youngster, he was called Daniel. When he became an adult he decided to honor his Hawaiian roots by changing his name to Kaneala, the Hawaiian version of Daniel. His family consists of a brother who lives in Portland, Oregon, and his mother Kathy who frequently comes to worship with him. He earned a B.A. from Indiana University and an M.A. from Ohio University. He has worked primarily in the area of fundraising and communications. Currently he is employed at the Cleveland Aquarium in education and customer relations. His account of working with fish is entertaining and educational. Ask him about it sometime!

His path to St. Paul’s was serendipitous; his affiliation almost didn’t happen. He was unchurched growing up, but stated that he had actually been “seeking” since the age of six. He began looking for a church home when he moved to Cleveland in February, 2016. He admitted that the search was extremely disheartening. However, a friend in Washington D.C. had suggested that he try St. Paul’s – and that worked! He remembers that “on the very day I was about to give up” on finding a church home, he walked into St. Paul’s, where his first contact was Curate Dale Grandfield, who welcomed him warmly. He had the same experience when he entered the Parish Office. He sensed that this was a place of faith and community where he found immediate acceptance.

Kaneala now finds himself “looking for ways to give back and to return to things I let go of years ago.” He learned to read music when he played trumpet as a seventh grader. Now he is creating music and plays bells. He enjoys painting, especially pastels. He is also interested in pursuing social issues. And…watch for his hair to turn red for Pentecost!

If you haven’t already encountered Kaneala in one of the many ministries he is a part of, please make a point to welcome him to St. Paul’s.

Interview conducted by Ruth Severeins for the Newcomer Council

WHO WE ARE

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
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Jeanne Leinbach, Rector jleinbach@stpauls-church.org
Jessie Dodson, Asst. Rector j dodson@stpauls-church.org
Brian Bechtel, Curatebbechtel@stpauls-church.org

Our Mission
St. Paul’s is a living, evolving community of Christian people who worship together according to the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. We seek to know God and God’s will for us; to care for each other; and to support each other in the exercise of our ministries among our neighbors and in the wider world.

Parish Notes Deadline
The next issue of Parish Notes will be dated February 2020. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday, January 15. Items may be edited for space and/or clarity.
Kim Fry, editor (216) 932-5815 ext. 214 kfry@stpauls-church.org